1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Mayiladuturai-Thiruvarur-Karaikudi & Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli	2007-08	224	404.19	404.19 336.57
9.	Cuddalore-Salem				

Apart from the above mentioned projects, gauge conversion of Madurai-Bodinayakkanur has been proposed in the budget 2008-09.

Promotion of agricultural research

*134. DR.ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to promote agricultural research in the country and what is the fund allocation for such research and how much of this is spent on promoting young agricultural scientists?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHR1SHARAD PAWAR): Agricultural Research in the country is being promoted through National Agricultural Research System (NARS), which is composed of 42 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and one Centra) Agricultural University and 95 Research Institutes. In addition, 61 All India Coordinated Research Projects and 16 Network Programmes area also in operation. These centres primarily address research in the field of Crop Science, Horticulture, Natural Resource Management, Agricultural , Engineering. Animal Science, Fisheries and Extension. There are also 558 multidisciplinary centres called Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) for assessment, refinement and demonstration of frontline technologies.

The focus of research programmes is to meet food and nutritional security of the country- as well as making Indian agriculture globally competitive both cost and quality-wise, raising farm income thus improving quality of life of farmers, facilitating flow of knowledge and technology to farmers, and promoting sustainable use of our natural resources.

National Agricultural Innovation Project with the support of World Bank is also in operation with main objective to facilitate accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture for enhancing productivity, profitability and livelihood security.

The fund allocated for research during 2008-09 is tentatively Rs. 1760 crore while it was Rs. 1620 crore during 2007-08. The Xlth Plan fund allocation of DARE/ICAR is Rs. 12,023 * crore against Rs. 5,368 crore during Xth Five Year Plan. The young scientists are encouraged to avail various scholarships/fellowships, study leave/sabbatical leave to continuously ' enhance their skills through specialized trainings. The budget allocation for research is made on the basis of schemes/projects as per their actual requirement and not on the basis of young or other scientists basis. However, in order to lay emphasis on getting good young scientists, the Department is funding all SAUs through its major scheme of Strengthening and Development of SAUs including scheme of establishing a Centre of Excellence in Niche area in each of the SAUs. The budget allocation for this scheme during 2007-08 was Rs. 310 crore while tentative allocation during 2008-09 is Rs. 347 crore.

Violation of Human Organ Transplantation Act

*135. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that not a singly conviction has taken place since the enactment of Human Organ.Transplantation Act 14 years back, despite the fact that several kidney rackets have been busted during this period;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that offenders arrested in such cases from hospitals get released soon thereafter and seldom face prosecution; and

(d) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to secure the conviction of offenders involved in kidney racket?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTHAND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Sale and purchase of human organs is already banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. Health is a State subject. The Appropriate Authorities appointed under Section 13 of the said Act by the Central and the State Governments, are empowered to investigate any complaint of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs. This Act already contains stringent provisions for punishing removal of human organs without authority and for commercial dealings in human organs.

Incidents of **looting in trains**

t*136. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of looting passengers by offering them food laced with drugs have increased in the past few days;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps for the security of passengers and their luggage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTEROF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a marginal increase in number of incidents of looting of passengers giving them eatables laced with drugs reported over Indian Railways during the year 2007 as compared to the previous year. During the year 2007, in all 725 such cases were reported as against 714 cases reported in the year 2006.

(b) and (c) Following preventive measures are being taken to prevent incidents of drugging in trains and Railway premises:—

1. Regular coordination meetings are being conducted with local police and GRP for better exchange of intelligence regarding criminal gangs indulging in such activities and joint strategy are formulated to effectively contain the crime.

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.